



MTCPA

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Little Big Horn College*

*Florence Garcia, Vice Chair
Fort Peck Community
College*

*Robert Depoe, Secretary
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*Carole Falcon-Chandler
Aaniiih Nakoda College*

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*Richard Little Bear
Chief Dull Knife College*

*Nate St. Pierre
Stone Child College*

MONTANA TRIBAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION

Montana Board of Education Meeting
Capital Building, Room 317
Helena, MT
January 7, 2014

Following are a number of topics that are important to the Montana Tribal Colleges (MT TCU's). In the brief time that we will have in presenting, I am listing the topics with very brief information regarding them. I and my fellow Tribal College President Collegues would be willing to answer or discuss the topics in more detail at another time.

Issues important to the Montana Tribal Colleges:

Non-Beneficiary Funds – The State of Montana has supported the seven MT TCU's in providing funds for non-native Montana Residents attending the tribal colleges. The funds have helped in defraying the cost of educating the "non-beneficiary" students enrolled at the tribal colleges.

We are hopeful that the funding will be continued into the future. We are also hopeful that the amount per non-beneficiary FTE increases.

GED/HiSet – What kind of changes should we expect from the conversion from GED to HiSet? Some of the concerns are with ongoing and proposed projects related to energy, we will have more community members without High School Diploma's seeking employment that may require certain educational or training levels.

Dual Enrollment – As there is an increasing demand for "dual enrollment", is there a template of criteria's in place that is "common" for everyone? Who is expected to pick up the cost?

Transferability of Credits – There has been great effort put into ensuring transfer of credits for a tribal college student transferring to a Montana University. With all that work, not all students have a "seamless" experience in transferring to a University.

Workforce Development – The MT TCU's much like the other higher education institutions in the State are very interested in "workforce development". Demands of skilled workers are constant, and increasing. TCU's seek ways to meet those demands through grants, partnerships, collaborations and through other means.

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Research – TCU's continue to seek ways to strengthen research capacities at their respective institutions. In many cases, it is through partnerships with other institutions.

Partnerships with Universities – TCU's enjoy and appreciate the partnerships that they have with the different Universities. The benefits of working with Research Experts, having access to considerably more resources, and gaining recognition for work done collaboratively are wonderful.

Something that would make this experience much better would be to treat the TCU's as an equal partner. Having discussions with TCU's prior to writing a proposal, rather than an after-thought.

Distance Learning/Online Coursework – Having more opportunities for gaining degrees from the Universities for "place bound" community members utilizing Distance Education would be a great benefit to the tribal communities.

Tribal Language – The majority of our tribal nations are experiencing a diminishing number of members speaking their native language. It is critical that we continue to seek ways to preserve, enhance and perpetuate the language of our ancestors.